



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

November 19, 2004

News Release

MAN WITH PREVIOUS CONVICTION FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORN

ST. LOUIS—A Fenton area man was sentenced Thursday to nine years in prison without the possibility of parole after pleading guilty to child pornography charges that were the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and announced by U. S. Attorney James G. Marti, Eastern District of Missouri.

He was sentenced under a statute which provides an enhanced penalty range for previously convicted child sexual abusers.

Michael L. Blow, 35, 700 Cardinal Park Circle, Fenton, Mo., was sentenced to 108 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release. Blow pleaded guilty May 28 to one felony count of receiving child pornography. He was charged under Title 18 U.S.C. 2252A(2)(a), which contains an enhancement for individuals with previous convictions for sexual abuse of minors. He appeared for sentencing before United States District Judge Donald J. Stohr.

According to documents filed with the court, Blow has previous convictions in Missouri relating to sexual abuse involving a minor, which are "Sexual Assault- First Degree and Deviant Sexual Assault- First Degree."

Additionally, on April 23, 2003, ICE special agents executed a search warrant at Blow's residence and seized a computer and related computer media. A forensic review of that computer hard drive and media revealed numerous images of child pornography. ICE also found that Blow knowingly received child pornography on his computer in April 2003. The child pornography had traveled in interstate commerce via the Internet.

"The best thing we can do to protect children from people like Mr. Blow is to lock them up as long as possible. Therefore, we will continue to pursue these cases with every resource available to our office," said Martin.

“These cases can be very difficult because you know that there's a child somewhere who was harmed, but that just makes us more resolved to pursue them,” said Tom Fisher, resident agent-in-charge of the ICE St. Louis office. “It’s gratifying to work together with the U.S. Attorney’s office to get these predators off our streets.”

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.